

## Message Text

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ACTION SCI-06

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ADP-00 AID-20 CEQ-02 CIAE-00 COA-02

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 EPA-04 INR-10 IO-13 L-03 NSF-04

NSC-10 NSAE-00 PM-07 RSC-01 SS-15 RSR-01 INT-08 /134 W

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P 242145Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7601

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, PBOR, MX

SUBJECT: SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS ALONG BORDER,  
EL PASO, SEPTEMBER 26-28, 1973.

REF: STATE 162851

SUMMARY: UNDERSECRETARY OF HEALTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT  
FRANCISCO VIZCAINO MURRAY WILL ATTEND SEMINAR WITH TOP-LEVEL  
DEPARTMENT HEADS HIS AGENCY. BECAUSE OF CRITICAL FLOOD  
SITUATION IRAPUATO, DR. ECHEVERRIA UNABLE MAKE COMMITMENT ATTEND  
AT THIS TIME BUT HOPES BE ABLE DO SO. CONSEQUENTLY EMBASSY  
RECOMMENDS HIGH-LEVEL EPA PARTICIPATON ALSO. END SUMMARY.

1. POLCOUNS AND SCICOUNS DISCUSSED SEMINAR WITH DR. EDUARDO  
ECHEVERRIA EARLY AUGUST 24. HE MOST CORDIAL, ADVISED HAD  
RECEIVED INVITATION TO SPEAK AT LUNCHEON, AND THAT BOTH HE AND  
UNDERSECRETARY VIZCAINO ORIGINALLY PLANNED ATTEND.

2. HOWEVER, DUE TO ENORMOUS PROBLEM GOM FACES BECAUSE OF  
IRAPUATO FLOODING, INVOLVING REHABILITATION PROGRAM OF SEVERAL  
MONTHS' DURATION, DECISION REACHED THAT ECHEVERRIA ASSUME THAT  
RESPONSIBILITY FOR UNDERSECRETARIAT, WHILE UNDERSECRETARY  
FRANCISCO VIZCAINO MARRAY HIMSELF SHOULD ATTEND SEMINAR,  
TOGETHER WITH AIDES SELECTED TO MATCH SEMINAR AGENDA.

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3. ECHEVERRIA THEREFORE REQUESTS THAT HE NOT APPEAR ON PROGRAM AS LUNCHEON SPEAKER, HOLDING OPEN POSSIBILITY THAT HE MAY BE ABLE ATTEND AND TAKE PART IN DISCUSSION BOTH AT SESSIONS AND LUNCHEON.

4. HE SOFT-PEDALED IDEA THAT HE PLANNED MAKE "POLICY STATEMENT" BUT DID ADVOCATE EXPANSION OF SEMINAR AGENDA TO INCLUDE, BESIDES AIR POLLUTION, WATER, SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL, HEALTH PROBLEMS (EPIDEMIOLOGY) COMMON TO BORDER AREAS, ARGUING THAT ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTANTS CAUSED BY INDUSTRY, AUTOMOBILES AND MUNICIPAL WASTE ALSO POLLUTE WATER AND ENDANGER HEALTH. HE MADE NO REFERENCE WHATSOEVER TO THE ASARCO PROBLEM, NOR DID HE SEEM TO HAVE THIS IN MIND.

5. ONE PET IDEA WHICH HE SAID HE HAD BEEN THINKING ABOUT, AND WHICH MIGHT BE PROPOSED AT THE SEMINAR, WOULD BE JOINT US-MEXICO ACTION IN THE CONSTRUCTION OF JOINT USE MUNICIPAL WASTE DISPOSAL PLANTS (A LA GUADALAJARA) IN ALTERNATE PRINCIPAL CITIES ALONG THE BORDER, I.E., ONE ON THE MEXICAN SIDE, ONE ON THE US SIDE TO HANDLE THE TWIN-CITY ACCUMULATIONS. HE FELT THAT THIS TYPE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES WITH COMMON BORDERS COULD BE A MODEL FOR REST OF THE WORLD, MENTIONING TIJUANA, MEXICALI, CIUDAD JUAREZ, LAREDO AND BROWNSVILLE SPECIFICALLY, BUT PRESUMABLY HAVING IN MIND ALSO NOGALES, PIEDRAS NEGRAS AND REYNOSA. FIVE OR SIX PLANTS WOULD DO IT, HE SAID.

6. AT CLOSE OF DISCUSSION HE REITERATED THAT VIZCAINO MURRAY WOULD GO, THAT AT LAST MINUTE HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO JOIN HIM,

GOING UP IN CHARTERED PLANE EARLY ONE DAY, RETURNING LATE NEXT, ACCOMPANIED BY SUBSECRETARIAT'S TOP PEOPLE SUCH AS DR. MARQUEZ MAYAUDON (AIR), DRA. RAQUEL DE ORDONEZ (EPIDEMIOLOGY), ING. URROZ (WATER), ING. MUNGUI (INTERNATIONAL PORT AND BOUNDARY MATTERS).

7. IN VIEW IMPORTANCE GOM ATTRIBUTING TO SEMINAR, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS ATTENDANCE HIGH-LEVEL EPA REPRESENTATIVE AND OTHER QUALIFIED SPECIALISTS.  
MCBRIDE

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## Message Attributes

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